A bill to be entitled

An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending s. 461.007, F.S.; revising certain continuing education requirements to apply to certain persons; creating s. 461.011, F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent; providing definitions; authorizing podiatric physicians to perform stem cell therapy under certain circumstances; providing requirements for the stem cells obtained and used by the physician; providing advertising requirements for stem cell therapies; requiring a physician to obtain a signed consent form before performing stem cell therapy; providing requirements for the consent form; providing applicability; providing criminal penalties; providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 461.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

461.007 Renewal of license.—

(3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education, not to exceed 40 hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of a license, with a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled

substances for each person registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and authorized to prescribe controlled substances pursuant to 21 U.S.C. s. 822. The criteria for such programs or courses shall be approved by the board.

Section 2. Section 461.011, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

461.011 Stem cell therapy.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes the significant potential of stem cell therapies in advancing medical treatments and improving patient outcomes and further recognizes the need to ensure that such therapies are provided using stem cells obtained in an ethical manner that does not involve stem cells derived from aborted fetuses. It is the intent of the Legislature to foster medical innovation while upholding ethical standards that respect the sanctity of life. By encouraging the use of stem cell sources such as adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and other ethically obtained human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products, the state will advance regenerative medicine in a manner consistent with the values of this state.

(2) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products" means articles containing or consisting of human cells or tissues that are intended for implantation, transplantation, infusion, or transfer into a human recipient. The term does not

include:

1. Vascularized human organs for transplantation;

2. Whole blood or blood components or blood derivative products;

3. Secreted or extracted human products, such as milk, collagen, and cell factors, other than semen;

4. Minimally manipulated bone marrow for homologous use and not combined with another article other than water, crystalloids, or a sterilizing, preserving, or storage agent, if the addition of the agent does not raise new clinical safety concerns with respect to the bone marrow;

5. Ancillary products used in the manufacture of human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products;

6. Cells, tissues, and organs derived from animals other than humans;

7. In vitro diagnostic products; or

8. Blood vessels recovered with an organ which are intended for use in organ transplantation and labeled, "For use in organ transplantation only."

(b) "Minimally manipulated" means:

1. For structural tissue, processing that does not alter the original relevant characteristics of the tissue relating to the tissue's use for reconstruction, repair, or replacement.

2. For cells or nonstructural tissues, processing that does not alter the relevant biological characteristics of cells

or tissues.

(c) "Stem cell therapy" means a treatment involving the use of afterbirth placental perinatal stem cells, or human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products, which complies with the regulatory requirements provided in this section. The term does not include treatment or research using human cells or tissues that were derived from a fetus or an embryo after an abortion.

(3)(a) A podiatric physician may perform stem cell therapy that is not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration if such therapy is used for treatment or procedures that are within the scope of practice for the physician and the therapies are related to orthopedics, wound care, or pain management.

(b) To ensure that the retrieval, manufacture, storage, and use of stem cells used for therapies conducted pursuant to this section meet the highest standards, any stem cells used by a physician for therapy provided must:

1. Be retrieved, manufactured, and stored in a facility that is:

a. Registered and regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration; or

b. Certified or accredited by one of the following entities:

(I) National Marrow Donor Program.

(II) World Marrow Donor Association.

(III) Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies.

(IV) American Association of Tissue Banks; and

2. Contain viable or live cells upon post-thaw analysis and be included in a post-thaw viability analysis report for the product lot which will be sent to the physician before use with the physician's patient.

(c) A podiatric physician performing stem cell therapy may only obtain stem cells for therapies from a facility engaging in the retrieval, manufacture, or storage of stem cells intended for human use if the facility maintains valid certification or accreditation as required by this subsection. Any contract or other agreement by which a physician obtains stem cells for therapies from such a facility must include the following:

1. A requirement that the facility provide all of the following information to the physician:

a. The name and address of the facility.

b. The certifying or accrediting organization.

c. The type and scope of certification or accreditation.

d. The effective and expiration dates of the certification or accreditation.

e. Any limitations or conditions imposed by the certifying or accrediting organization.

2. A requirement that the facility notify the podiatric

physician within 30 days after any change in certification or accreditation status, including renewal, suspension, revocation, or expiration.

(4) In the performance of any procedure using or purporting to use stem cells or products containing stem cells, the podiatric physician shall use stem cell therapy products obtained from facilities that adhere to the applicable current good manufacturing practices for the collection, removal, processing, implantation, and transfer of stem cells, or products containing stem cells, pursuant to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. ss. 301 et seq.; 52 Stat. 1040 et seq.; and 21 C.F.R. part 1271, Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue-Based Products.

(5)(a) A podiatric physician who conducts stem cell therapy pursuant to this section shall include the following notice in any form of advertisement:

THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO YOU UNDER FLORIDA LAW. This physician performs one or more stem cell therapies that have not yet been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. You are encouraged to consult with your primary care provider before undergoing any stem cell therapy.

(b) The notice required under paragraph (a) must be

clearly legible and in a type size no smaller than the largest type size used in the advertisement.

(6)(a) A podiatric physician who provides stem cell therapy pursuant to this section shall obtain a signed consent form from the patient before performing stem cell therapy.

(b) The consent form must be signed by the patient or, if the patient is not legally competent, the patient's representative and must state all of the following in language the patient or his or her representative may reasonably be expected to understand:

1. The nature and character of the proposed treatment.

2. That the proposed stem cell therapy has not yet been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

3. The anticipated results of the proposed treatment.

4. The recognized serious possible risks, complications, and anticipated benefits involved in the treatment and in the recognized possible alternative forms of treatment, including nontreatment.

5. That the patient is encouraged to consult with his or her primary care provider before undergoing any stem cell therapy.

(7) This section does not apply to:

(a) A podiatric physician who has obtained approval for an investigational new drug or device from the United States Food and Drug Administration for the use of human cells, tissues, or

cellular or tissue-based products; or

(b) A podiatric physician who performs stem cell therapy under an employment or other contract on behalf of an institution certified or accredited by any of the following:

1. The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy.

2. The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network.

3. The Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies.

4. An entity with expertise in stem cell therapy as determined by the department.

(8) A violation of this section shall subject the podiatric physician to disciplinary action by the board.

(9) A podiatric physician who willfully performs, or actively participates in, the following commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, and is subject to disciplinary action under this chapter and s. 456.072:

(a) Treatment or research using human cells or tissues derived from a fetus or an embryo after an abortion; or

(b) The sale, manufacture, or distribution of computer products created using human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products.

(10) The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this

section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.